Did you hear that?!

Sound	Equivalence in Decibels
Just Audible	10 dB
Quiet Rural Area	40 dB
Air Conditioning Unit at 100 ft	60 dB
Normal Conversation	60-70 dB
Television	70 dB
Diesel Truck at 40mph at 50 ft	84 dB
Food Blender	88 dB
Motorcycle at 25 ft	90 dB
Power Mower at 3 ft	107 dB
Loud Rock Concert	115 dB

Note: An increase of 10dB sounds twice as loud.

Key Noise Terms

Decibel (dB) - The unit of measure used to express the loudness of sound.

Noise Contours - The depiction of decibel levels on a map. The contour lines show the areas where there are equal levels of noise, such as a 60 dB contour line.

Special Use Airspace (SUA) - Airspace designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for military operations.

Training Noise - Sounds that are produced by training conducted on MCAGCC ranges and in MCAGCC SUA.

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Facts about Noise from MCAGCC

Critical training required of Marines and Sailors aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) prepares them for combat. They must train as they fight, using the mortars, artillery, tanks, planes, and guns they would use in combat. This equipment generates noise during training that can sometimes be heard in the community.

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Commonly asked questions about training noise

Q: Why is the noise louder on some days than on others?

A: Noise changes depending on the type of training being conducted. In addition, cloud cover and wind direction can cause the sounds created by training to travel further, making them sound louder.

Q: Can you train somewhere else?

A:MCAGCC is the only Marine Corps installation where certain combat readiness training can occur. Over 90% of deploying Marines train at MCAGCC prior to deployment. Ranges, airspace and facilities have been built up in order to achieve this critical training capability.

Q: Why do you need to train over my house?

A: The FAA has designated Military Training Routes and Special Use Airspace assigned to the military that extend beyond the land boundaries of the base. These routes and airspace may be over residences and other buildings, which may result in some training noise impacts to those residences or buildings.

Q: Why do aircraft circle?

A: Due to the training situation on the installation, military aircraft may be directed to wait before entering the airspace and conducting their mission.

Q: Why do the aircraft fly so low?

A: An no time do military aircraft fly lower than approved by the FAA which is no lower than 500 feet above ground level in designated areas. Marines must train as they fight, and low-level approaches are sometimes a required training element.

Q: Can you warn us in advance of loud days?

A: MCAGCC is a 24-hour, live-fire military installation. Training using live ordnance can occur at any time. Depending on the weather and type of ordnance used, sound traveling off the installation can vary from day to day. Therefore, it is difficult to anticipate which specific training exercises may be louder than others.

Q:Can training noise cause earthquakes?

A: No, seismic activity is unrelated to ordnance used in training.

Q: What can I do to make it quieter inside my home?

A: Materials can be purchased - sound insulation for attics, windows, etc. - that will reduce noise. Consult with a local contractor or hardware store for additional information.

Q: Are there health effects from noise exposure?

A: MCAGCC conducts periodic analysis of the training sound levels on and off the installation. Based on these analyses, we are confident that sound levels above 65dB (the equivalent to a voice in regular conversation) rarely, if ever, leave the installation boundaries. At this level, there would be no adverse health effects to the community.

Q: Why do you have to train so late at night?

A: It is imperative to adequately prepare our Marines and Sailors for combat. In actual combat environments, operations can occur 24 hours a day. In order for our Marines to be prepared, they must conduct training operations at night.